

**RESOLUTION "A"**  
**Resolution In Support of a State Psychiatric Facility  
on the Grounds of the Caro Center in Tuscola County**

At a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Saginaw, State of Michigan held in the City of Saginaw on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of June 2019 at 5:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** *Kathleen K. Dwan, Cheryl M. Hadsall, Kyle R. Harris, Kirk W. Kilpatrick, Dennis H. Krafft, Sheldon Matthews, Amos O'Neal, Carl E. Ruth, Charles M. Stack, James G. Theisen, Michael A. Webster – 11*

**Commissioner O'Neal offered the following resolution and moved for adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Krafft.**

**WHEREAS**, during the 1990's, two thirds of the state-operated psychiatric hospitals serving Michigan citizens closed, and from 2005 to 2010 the number of state psychiatric beds in Michigan decreased by nearly 50%; and,

**WHEREAS**, multiple studies and the facts identified above conclude there is a pressing need for long-term, in-patient psychiatric care in Michigan; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature provided \$115 million in state building authority financed construction for a new state psychiatric hospital, and decided that the facility would be built on the grounds of the current Caro Center in the FY 2016-17 and 2017-18 budgets. Then-Governor Snyder concurred, by signing Public Act 107 of 2017, in July of that year; and,

**WHEREAS**, on December 19, 2017, the State Administrative Board approved a \$5.4 million contract with Integrated Design Solutions, to design a new 200 bed, regional state psychiatric hospital (an increase from the current 150 beds at the Caro Center), on the site of the existing Caro Center, with an announcement by then State DHHS Director Nick Lyon "The State of Michigan made a commitment to the Caro community that the new psychiatric hospital would remain in the community, and we are keeping that promise;" and,

**WHEREAS**, on October 19, 2018, then-Governor Snyder participated in a ground breaking for the new 225,000 square foot state psychiatric hospital at the site of the current Caro Center. The new hospital was scheduled to be completed in 2021 and would replace the aging Caro facility. Over \$3 million in taxpayer funds have already been spent in preparation for construction at the Caro site; and,

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2019, Governor Whitmer halted construction, and contracted with a private consulting firm, at the cost of \$277,000, to re-assess the location of a new state psychiatric facility, potentially delaying the availability of new psychiatric beds and the replacement of the aging Caro facility by another 2-4 years; and,

**WHEREAS**, the facility is a vital economic engine for this entire region of Michigan. A recent economic impact study determined that the operation infuses \$54 million annually into the regional economy while directly employing 350 people and indirectly employing another 400 people, making it the second largest employer in Tuscola County; and,

**WHEREAS**, relocation of the facility would have dramatic, devastating negative repercussions to businesses, schools, and families living in communities throughout this region of the state. The area economy is already struggling from the previous closure of State Prisons; and,

**WHEREAS**, at the current location there is a 100-year community tradition of caring. Seventy percent of employees travel less than 30 miles to work. The site is centrally located for family visits and patient transportation with 80% of patients coming from Genesee, Oakland, and Macomb Counties, just to the south of Tuscola County. The 600-acre site is already state-owned and infrastructure is already in place. County engineers determined the on-site water system can be economically upgraded to serve the new hospital. It is accessible to state highways and near area medical providers.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** the Saginaw County Board of Commissioners does hereby urge Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Department of Health and Human Services Director Robert Gordon, and members of the State Legislature, in response to a critical shortage of in-patient state psychiatric beds, continue with the construction of a new 200-bed, state psychiatric hospital on the grounds of the current Caro Center, in Tuscola County, as the best option for quality, accessible services to patients and their families, and as the best value to the taxpayers of Michigan and prevent devastating negative repercussions to businesses, schools, and families living in communities throughout this region of the state.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that copies of this resolution be transmitted to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Department of Health and Human Services Director Robert Gordon, Senator Kevin Daley, Senator Dan Lauwers, Senator Ken Horn, Representative Phil Green, Representative Vanessa Guerra, Representative Rodney Wakeman, Representative Ben Frederick, Michigan Association of Counties, and all Michigan counties.

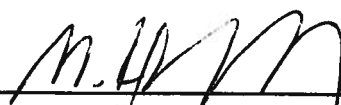
**Yeas:** *Kathleen K. Dwan, Cheryl M. Hadsall, Kyle R. Harris, Kirk W. Kilpatrick, Dennis H. Krafft, Sheldon Matthews, Amos O'Neal, Carl E. Ruth, Charles M. Stack, James G. Theisen, Michael A. Webster - 11*

**TOTAL: - 11**

STATE OF MICHIGAN            )  
  )ss  
COUNTY OF SAGINAW        )

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the County of Saginaw, State of Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of proceedings taken at a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of said County, held on the 18th day of June, 2019, the original of which is on file in the Board Office. Public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in compliance with Act No. 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my official signature this 18th day of June, 2019.

  
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Michael J. Hanley, County Clerk  
County of Saginaw